

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: OTRA (SCHNEIER, ARTHUR), PINT, UR

SUBJECT: TRAVEL TO USSR OF RABBI ARTHUR SCHNEIER

1. RABBI ARTHUR SCHNEIER OF APPEAL OF CONSCIENCE FOUNDATION UNEXPECTEDLY INVITED BY SOVIET RELIGIOUS COMMUNITY AUGUST 21 TO ATTEND FUNERAL OF LENINGRAD RABBI LUBANOV. FUNERAL IN LENINGRAD HAS BEEN DELAYED UNTIL 6:00 P.M. AUGUST 22 TO ENABLE RABBI SCHNEIER TO ATTEND.

2. RABBI SCHNEIER SOUGHT ASSISTANCE OF AMBASSADOR DOBRYNIN AUGUST 21 AND WAS ADVISED TO PICK UP SOVIET VISA IN PARIS MORNING OF AUGUST 22 EN ROUTE LENINGRAD. HE ARRIVES PARIS VIA TWA FLIGHT800(ORLY) AT 7:30 A.M. AUGUST 22, DEPARTS PARIS (LE BOURGET) VIA AEROFLOT AT 11:20 A.M., ARRIVING LENINGRAD AT 4:45 P.M. AUGUST 22.

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3. IN VIEW OF CLOSE TIMING OF VISA PROCEDURE IN PARIS AS WELL AS TIMING OF FUNERAL IN LENINGRAD, REQUEST CONSULATE MEET RABBI SCHNEIER AT LENINGRAD AIRPORT TO ASSIST HIM WITH ENTRY FORMALITIES AND TO TRANSPORT HIM DIRECTLY TO FUNERAL.

4. FOR MOSCOW: RABBI SCHNEIER PLANS TO VISIT MOSCOW AFTER FUNERAL, PRESUMABLY IN CONNECTION WITH FORTHCOMING VISIT TO US OF METROPOLITAN NIKODIM AND OTHER PROMINENT SOVIET CHURCHMEN. FYI RABBI SCHNEIER RECENTLY RECEIVED CONFIRMATION OF US VISIT FROM NIKODIM.END FYI. EMBASSY REQUESTED

TO EXTEND APPROPRIATE COURTESIES IF CONTACTED BY RABBI SCHNEIER.

5. IT MIGHT BE WELL TO CHECK SCHNEIER'S VISA TO SEE THAT IT PERMITS HIM TO DEPART USSR FROM MOSCOW. ROGERS

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